London Mission

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Volume 59 : Jan - Mar 2012

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LONDON**MISSION**

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MESSAGE BY THE PRIME MINISTER ... THE YEAR AHEAD

My strongest wish for the year ahead of us, 2012, is that our people will come together as one, in the spirit of unity and harmony, to do things that will boost our collective pride and self-confidence and give our children inspiration and a spirit of optimism.

Let us learn from our experiences of the past and resolve to do better.

Let us build on our formidable legacy of achievement as a people and aspire to greater heights.

Let us thank God for his Divine Grace and embrace the future with optimism and commitment.

In this New Year 2012, as we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary of Independence, let us work together to build a Greater Nation.

Let us focus on the possibilities; let us focus on the opportunities; to this end, let us use our freedom responsibly and wisely, to be better and to be more – to surprise ourselves with our vast capabilities and be a source of inspiration to others.

These actions will redound to the good of our nation; and to a brighter and more glorious future; for the sake of passing on to our children a homeland that they can believe in and work for and commit to – let us do what we must, always, in the spirit of togetherness.

I want you to know that you are my inspiration. When your children embrace me, they inspire me. When you engage me in your communities, you inspire me. When you say thanks for the goods and services that my Government is able to deliver to

your communities, you move me.

I made an early commitment that my government will serve the people; I made a commitment that my government will deliver goods and services to you; I made a commitment that my government will listen to you and respond to you. We know that we can do better; because there is so much yet to do. You can count on your government to be by your side and to stand with you.

We will continue to serve you, to deliver goods and services and to listen and to respond to you over the next three (3) years. We will do more each year, and we will do better each year.

2011 has been a very challenging year. I never expected that gang warfare, drugs and the threat of instability to our country would force me to call a State of Emergency. This was a very, very difficult decision for me to make. Now, on reflection, I know that it was absolutely necessary.

Once again I take the opportunity to say special thanks to the Security Forces under the Minister of National Security for their diligence and application over these stressful times. My thanks also go out to the families of these men and women who gave and who continue to give selfless service.

2011 has also been a challenging time in terms of governance, in terms of policy and in terms of project execution.

It has taken us some time to move from Manifesto, to one year action plans of Ministries, to Medium Term Policy Framework. The Medium Term Policy Framework is now a public document and discussions concerning the Framework have been taking place at Cabinet Level, at the leadership of the public service and are continuing at civil society level, with the business community, and we look forward to the engagement of the labour movement.

Ministerial Strategic Plans are being aligned to this Medium Term Policy Framework for sharper focus.

It is my view that with the clarity of the Medium Term Policy Framework on action and targets to 2014; with the strategic plans of Ministries now well aligned and ready for execution; with action on the Public Sector Investment programme; with anticipated local private sector investment and public-private partnerships, with new investments from abroad and with concerted action on 2012 budget execution, we will be able to stimulate confidence, heightened activity and more effective decision making to make a meaningful difference in 2012. More investment by the private sector is something we want to encourage as government proceeds with its own action.

May 2012 be the year in which

we not only have peace, stability, harmony and togetherness but growth, jobs and prosperity as well.

I urge the public and private sectors to work together in partnership to ensure that we create a sound and vibrant economy. We must take our country forward together.

We have succeeded in reducing crime in our country; we will be working with communities to take back their neighbourhoods from criminal activity in the coming year; additionally the security forces have defined targets for reduction of crime and increases in detection rates which they must meet.

We note the continuing gang violence however, the rule of law must be made to prevail, and the police must be vigilant enough to stay ahead of the game.

Our assault on crime and criminals, guns and drugs will continue this year in a relentless fashion.

The criminals must not be allowed to instil fear in our neighbourhoods. And they will definitely not be allowed to usher in a reign of terror in our country. We will work diligently to keep crime under control and we will continue to rely on the security forces to do their job.

There has been talk of corruption at home and this country's reputation for corruption persists abroad. Over the years this country's image has been severely tarnished. But my government is doing something about it. If corruption surfaces in this government I promise you to deal with it. I made an early commitment to transparency and accountability and I stand by that.

We will bring Procurement Legislation to the Parliament this year as we have promised and we will strengthen transparency and accountability in government.

It is not fair to attribute motives to this Government that are rooted in knowledge of practices in the past, or that are meant to promote self-interest or partisan interest.

This government must be judged by what it says and does; not by what others say it should have done. Second guessing is easy when you do not carry the weight and obligation of responsibility.

We have identified five (5) priorities going forward for this year.

These are:

1) Crime Reduction and Law and Order

2) Agriculture and Food Security

3) Health Care Services and Hospitals

4) Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation

5) Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development...

... and this will be where our focus will be sharpest.

We are going to do this and we will not deviate from being a government that cares for its people and delivers to its people.

This year we must take action to achieve three key objectives:

1) To grow the economic pie through investment, diversification, higher productivity and competitiveness

2) To reduce the percentage of State transfers, subsidies and social support through effective rationalization within a policy framework for growth and sustainable development

3) To bring larger numbers of our people out of dependency and poverty into skills and entrepreneurship generally through micro enterprises and small business development, in the process strengthen the economic inclusion process.

In 2012, make a commitment with me, to redouble our effort, to do more and to do better wherever we live and work. Let us work harder, smarter and be more creative and innovative in all that we do. Remember our vision is "through creativity, innovation and collaboration; we shall prosper together" and our mission is "to achieve economic inclusiveness in an innovation-driven growth economy with greater equity, more meaningful participation".

May 2012 be a personally satisfying year for each one of you. May you all be happy, productive and prosperous. And may this country that we love – Trinidad and Tobago - have a year in 2012 of prosperity, peace, harmony, unity and love.

God bless you all. And may God bless our nation.

children's Life Fund

The Fund was Created and established in November 2010 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Children's Life Fund's aegis is to provide urgent relief for children, assisting those who live in the shadow of disease and illness. The Fund has also received support from the renewed charity medical Schriners Children's Hospital. In addition, all Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament contribute 5% of their salary to the Fund.

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Trinidad and Tobago High Commission
(Children's Life Fund)

Barclays Bank, West Halkin Street, London SW1X 8JE

The Seventh UK-Caribbean Forum, 2012 Ends On A High in St. George's Grenada

Trinidad and Tobago recently participated in the 7th UK-Caribbean Forum in St. George's, Grenada. The Forum explores methods of strengthening tie between the two regions around four key areas; economic resilience, security, foreign policy issues and climate change and sustainable development.

The delegation representing the government of Trinidad and Tobago in St. George's, Grenada in comprised of:

Dr. the Honourable Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications.

The Honourable Collin Partap, Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security.

The Honourable Nicole Dyer-Griffiths, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications.

His Excellency Edwin Carrington, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Caribbean Community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications.

Mr. Steven Williams, Deputy Chief Immigration Officer, Ministry of National Security.

Ms. Jaqueline Charles, Manager, Market Access, Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Ms. Theresa Noel-Belasco, Desk Officer the United Kingdom – Bilateral Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications.

Photo: caricom.org

(back row, 4th from right) *Dr. the Honourable Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communication with* ***(front row, 3rd from right)*** *the Right Honourable William Hague, British Foreign Secretary and First Secretary of State with delegates at the 7th UK-Caribbean Forum 2012 in St. George's, Grenada.*

UK pledges greater support for the Caribbean

This British Government will not turn its back on the Caribbean. This assurance was given by the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, the Rt. Hon William Hague as he addressed the opening ceremony of the Seventh Biennial UK-Caribbean Forum in Grenada on Friday, 20th January 2012.

In a brief speech, Foreign Secretary Hague told an audience of Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers, Foreign Ministers, High Commissioners and other senior officials that his Government had no plans to close any more embassies in the Caribbean but rather to open more as a sign of its commitment to strengthen relations with the Caribbean.

He noted that the people of the Caribbean had played a pivotal role in shaping the British Society for hundreds of years:

"From Mary Seacole's contribution to nursing to Lewis Hamilton's sporting achievements, Britons of Caribbean origin have contributed to every walk of life in our country."

Against this background, Hague stressed that the UK valued the bonds between both regions and as such would invest further in that relationship.

"We want to build a new partnership between Britain and the Caribbean that creates opportunities on all sides – in development, climate change, the economy, security and foreign policy, he stated noting that the details of their support would be discussed during the session on Saturday morning.

The UK Delegation has been deemed one of the strongest and largest ever to attend the Forum. It included the CEO of the UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and the Chair of the Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA) together with other senior officials.

St Kitts and Nevis Foreign Minister

Sam Condor had linked this to the importance that the UK attached its relationship with the Caribbean. The UK Foreign Secretary underscored this, noting that Britain was very conscious of the value and significance of the relationships within the Caribbean and the many opportunities they brought.

The CARICOM Secretary-General Irwin LaRocque had also weighed in noting that the UK and the Caribbean had been friends and partners for a long time and were intimately familiar with each other's challenges. This, he stated, "must count for something as we go to this new level in our relations, even in the context of a radically changed world."

The three-day political debate was held under the theme, Sustainable Growth toward Prosperity. Co-Chaired by St Kitts and Nevis Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Sam Condor and the UK Foreign Secretary, this ministerial forum focused on three broad issues of security, environment and economic resilience and the Plan of Action was issued at the end of the meeting set out both the outcomes and strategies to chart the way forward in rejuvenating the Caribbean-UK relations.

For the first time in its 14 year history, the Forum has included security as a distinct component and for the second time a distinct business, trade and investment component. During the Meeting therefore, the Caribbean Private sector had opportunity to explore trade and investment opportunities with the United Kingdom even while addressing any challenges they may be experiencing in doing business with the UK.

The Forum came to an end with a cricket match on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd January - an event in which the Grenada Foreign Minister Karl Hood quipped that the Caribbean would once again prove its dominance in that Sport. This event was used as a platform on which to continue to promote healthy lifestyles in the fight against chronic non-communicable diseases.

Photo: caricom.org

(L-R) Dr. Ambassador Collin Granderson, Asst. Secretary General, Foreign and Community Relations, CCS; Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, CARICOM Secretary-General; the Hon. Sam Condor, Deputy PM of St. Kitts and Nevis, Chari of COFCOR and Co-Chair of the Forum; Rt. Hon. William Hague, UK Foreign Secretary at the start of the first plenary of the 7th UK-Caribbean Forum.

Highlights of the Action Plan include:

Economic resilience
To establish a new strategic partnership between the countries of the Caribbean and the United Kingdom to promote prosperity and build economic resilience through the development of practical mechanisms which will enhance growth in investment, employment, production and trade opportunities to the benefit of the Caribbean and the UK;

Security
To enhance collaboration and coordination in the fight against illegal drug trafficking among the Caribbean, the UK and its Overseas Territories through regional initiatives, greater intelligence sharing, criminal justice reform and targeting the proceeds of crime. To support the Caribbean to engage more effectively with the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI).

Climate change and sustainable development
To collaborate closely on climate change issues, recognising that current 'business as usual' trends are likely to lead to catastrophic climate change, including warming, since the pre-industrial period of 4C or more. Preventing this is an imperative we share.

In particular, to work together with urgency and vigour to close the ambition gap on emissions, to mobilise climate funding on the necessary scale and to secure agreement by 2015 on a comprehensive legally binding global framework.

Other foreign policy issues
To support the principle and the right to self-determination for all peoples, including the Falkland Islanders, recognising the historical importance of self-determination in the political development of the Caribbean, and its core status as an internationally agreed principle under the United Nations Charter.

To read the full **Action Plan** visit: www.caricomnewsnetwork.com/index.php?option=com_ontent&view=article&id=6493

H.E. Ambassador G Nicholas presents credentials to HM Harald V, King of Norway

pictued: *His MajestyThe King II greets H.E. Garvin Nicholas.*

His Excellency Ambassador Garvin Nicholas presents Credentials to His Majesty Harald V, King of Norway on 8th March 2012

Commonwealth Day Observance Service at Westminster Abbey

pictured: *H.E. Garvin Nicholas and spouse Dr. Nicola Alcala meets Her Majesty The Queen at the Commonwealth Day Reception in Marlborough House.*

Photo courtesy the commonwealth secretariat

On the 12th March, 2012, The Commonwealth Day 2012 celebrations were hosted by Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma at Marlborough House - the Commonwealth Secretariat's headquarters - in London, UK.

The evening commemorated the Commonwealth Day theme 'Connecting Cultures' - observed throughout 2012 - which celebrates the diversity of the Commonwealth and its role in bringing together many different peoples on the basis of shared visions and values.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were joined by Australian Senator Jan McLucas, representing Prime Minister of Australia and Commonwealth Chair-in-Office, Julia Gillard; Sir John Major, former British Prime Minister and Chair of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust (QEDJT); South African musician Hugh Masekela; and multiple prize-winning author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Commonwealth Day also marked the start of the Commonwealth's celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee marking her 60 years as UK monarch and Head of the Commonwealth.

At the reception, the Queen met, among others, members of the QEDJT, the Commonwealth Working Group for the Diamond Jubilee, high commissioners, and Commonwealth Secretariat staff.

Sir John said it was a great honour to be asked to chair the QEDJT, which will fund pan-Commonwealth initiatives.

He added that by focusing on the Commonwealth, the trust is reflecting the Queen's affinity and closeness to the association shown throughout her 60 year reign.

Earlier that day, the Queen attended the Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey in London, UK, where singer Laura Wright, performed 'Stronger as One', written to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and focusing on the Commonwealth.

For more information on Commonwealth Day 2012, visit: www.thecommonwealth.org/subhomepage/191086/245195/commonwealth_day

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO COMMITTED TO COMBAT MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORIST FINANCING

Minister of Finance, the Honourable Winston Dookeran addressed the gathering at the Seventh Annual Anti Money Laundering/ Counter Financing of Terrorism Compliance Conference on January 30th 2012 at the Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain.

In his opening remarks, Minister Dookeran stated that "the world is becoming increasingly more interconnected, especially in the areas of finance and this interconnectedness has brought new challenges to the surface such as the challenge of retaining our sovereignty in dealing with National Development". He also raised the issue of money laundering and terrorist financing that undermines the integrity and stability of financial institutions. In addition to this, it distorts the international capital flows, which has a direct economic and financial cost.

Photo courtesy GISL

(L-R) *Minster of Finance, the Hon. Winston Dookeram, CFATF Secretariat, Calvin Wilson and Minister of National Security Se. Brig. the Hon. John Sandy in discussion after the Money Laundering/ Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Compliance Conference.* ***Photo:*** *news.gov.tt*

The Minister also mentioned the financial policies that would be implemented in Trinidad and Tobago concerning the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Financial Institution Act, and that particular attention would be paid to the legislation of the insurance sector.

To read more from the Minister's speech, please visit www.news.gov.tt/index.php?news=10390

MINISTER OF JUSTICE BEGINS UK STUDY TOUR

On the 16th March, 2012 Minister of Justice, the Honourable Herbert Volney M.P. began his United Kingdom study tour with high profile meetings with the Attorney General and Solicitor General of the UK, the Right Hon. Dominic Grieves Q.C. M.P. and the Director of Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer Q.C.

Discussions with the UK's Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer Q.C., dealt with the various reform initiatives which have greatly impacted and improved Criminal Case Management in the UK by ensuring 'quicker justice' within the UK's Criminal Justice System. The UK's Director of Public Prosecutions also shared on the UK's experience with respect to the use of criminal hearsay evidence, and on the value of closed circuit (CCTV) and deoxy-ribo-nucleic acid (DNA) evidence as tools of interdiction. Arising from these talks, the Trinidad and Tobago delegation was able to gain tremendous insight into the potential utility and practical application of these 'game-

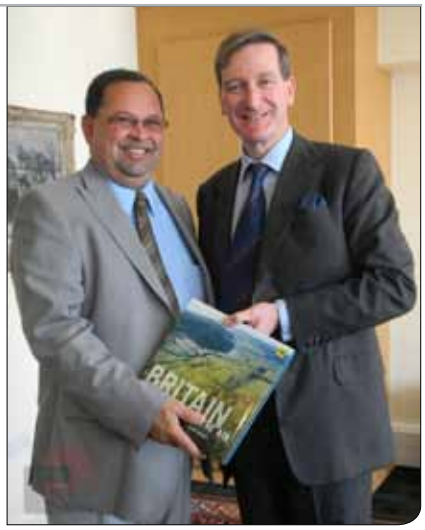


Photo courtesy GISL

Pictured: *Minister of Justice, the Honourable Herbert Volney and the Attorney General and Solicitor General of the UK, the Right Hon. Dominic Grieves Q.C. M.P*

changing' initiatives and strategies. The delegation is also gauging the potential applicability of these measures in halting and reversing the crime trends in Trinidad and Tobago.

Later, the Justice Minister also held talks with the Hon Attorney General and Solicitor General of the U.K., the Rt. Hon. Dominic Grieves Q.C. M.P. The Attorney General defined the parameters of the duties and functions of the Office of the Attorney General and more specifically, its roles and relationships as they relate to the UK Criminal Justice System. The UK's Attorney General also shared much information on the legislative reform measures which have been introduced into the United Kingdom's Criminal Justice System.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation also travelled to Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) in Brixton. There, the delegation met and held discussions with the Prison Governor, Mr. Ed Tullett and the Prison's Head of Corporate Assurance, Ms Sonya Mc Millan on the innovative penal reform systems and machineries that have been implemented at Brixton towards engendering the principles of restorative justice and prisoner rehabilitation. The Governor informed the delegation that one of the most impactful innovations has been the introduction of Prison Radio Brixton.

The Prison Radio concept involves the establishment of a radio station within the prisons walls which is "run by prisoners for prisoners". The concept constitutes a unique and innovative mechanism for "changing the lives of serving prisoners" by creating programmes that address the needs of the prison community as well as educating and equipping prisoners with the skills and confidence necessary to find work upon release and re- entry into society, thereby assisting in the reduction of recidivism.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation also met with Mr. Andrew Wilke, Director of the Prison Radio Association and several inmates who worked in the production of the radio programmes. Mr. Wilke informed the delegation that the radio station broadcasts programmes made by prisoners, directly into the cells of prisoners throughout the UK. In 2009 Electric Radio Brixton broke new ground by beating the biggest radio networks in the country to win four coveted Sony Radio Academy Awards for its programming. This was followed by further successes at the Sony Awards in 2010 and 2011.

In early 2010, Electric Radio Brixton became National Prison Radio. National Prison Radio is the world's first national radio service for prisoners. The service broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week via in-cell TV and is being rolled out to all prisons across England and Wales, in partnership with the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

Minister Volney was asked to serve as a guest on one of Radio Brixton's programmes. He was interviewed by one of the inmates and gave inspirational messages and words of encouragement to the prison population which echoed a theme of "taking stock of your lives".

The Justice Minister Herbert Volney and delegation also met with Law Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, namely the President and Deputy President of the Supreme Court the Rt. Hon. Lord Phillips of Worth Matravas KG and the Rt. Hon. the Lord Hope of Craighead KT. The Law Lords and the Justice Minister discussed legal and social matters and the delegation was informed that the highest number of appeals to the Privy Council emanates from Trinidad and Tobago. At the end of the meeting, the Trinidad and Tobago delegation was given a tour of the Supreme Court.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation continues their study tour of the UK Criminal Justice System with scheduled meetings with officials responsible for court planning, parole, and electronic monitoring or tagging as it is known in the UK.

APRIL 2012
Foreign Exchange rates

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING	CASH
Great British Pound	10.1386	10.5593	9.6336
United States Dollar	6.2440	6.4001	6.000
European Euro	8.6397	9.0123	8.1147
Canadian Dollar	6.3519	6.6496	6.1169

T&T RELAY TEAM WINS BRONZE AT IAAF WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

On March 12th, 2012, the third and final day of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Indoor Championships, in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Trinidad and Tobago atheletes in the relay team who competed in the men's 4x400 metres and won the bronze medal include Lalonde Gordon, Renny Quow, Jereem Richards and Jarrin Solomon.

The Trinidad and Tobago quartet returned a time of three minutes, 06.85 seconds to secure third spot, behind United States, the winners in time of 3:03.94, and Great Britain 3:04.72.

The Trinidad and Tobago relay team at one time after the race were declared silver medallists following the disqualification of the Americans for "exchanging positions before take-over". However, the United States were reinstated following a successful appeal, and Trinidad and Tobago were back in third spot.

The bronze medal was only the third medal for Trinidad and Tobago in the 25-year history of the World Indoor Championships.

At the 1989 edition of the global meet, Ian Morris picked up silver in the men's 400m in 46.09 seconds. In 1993, in Toronto, Canada, Dazel Jules, Alvin Daniel, Neil De Silva and Morris claimed silver in the mile relay in 3:07.02.

The relay time in 1989 was a national indoor record and stood for the past 19 years before it was finally bested by Gordon, Quow, Richards and Solomon which gave them a reason for a double celebration.

Photo: AFP

Great Britain's Luke Lennon-Ford, right, hands off the baton to teammate Michael Bingham, as Trinidad and Tobago's Renny Quow, second from left, hands off to his teammate, Jereem Richards for the third leg of heat two in the men's 4x400 metres qualifying round, at the 2012 IAAF World Indoor Championships, in Istanbul, Turkey,

With the mile relay bronze medal, Trinidad and Tobago finished joint 25th on the medal table, with Cuba, Lithuania and Poland.

United States of America topped the table with 10 gold, three silver and five bronze medals. Great Britain (two gold, three silver, four bronze) finished second, while third spot was copped by Ethiopia (two gold, one silver, two bronze).

LONDON 2012: JEHUE GORDON - THE HURDLER BORN SPECIAL

World Olympic Dreams is a BBC project following the lives and progress of 26 athletes from around the world as they strive to turn their hopes for Olympic success at London 2012 into a reality.

Viewers are given a real insight into each of the athlete's unique stories and very different personal circumstances while they all work towards the same goal of Olympic success: personal training regimes; coaches; diet; family; friends; their likes and dislikes and the sacrifices they all have to make.

One of the 26 athletes featured is Trinidad and Tobago athlete Jehue Gordon who has set his sights on the pinnacle of sporting success - a gold medal at the London Olympics.

To view the TV programme visit the BBC Sport website: www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/olympics/17436202

Their Royal Highnesses, The Earl and Countess of Wessex, visit Belmont Boys Secondary School and The Princess Elizabeth Centre

On Wednesday 29th February , 2012 His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex began the second day of his visit to Trinidad and Tobago by attending the Olympic Teleconference held at Belmont Boys Roman Catholic Secondary School in Port of Spain. The conference was held as part of the International Inspirations programme which teaches young people around the world the inspiration for the games and the transformational power of the Olympic Games which will be held in the United Kingdom later this year. After the conference His Royal Highness along with Dr. the Honourable Tim Gopeesingh, Minister of Education and His Worship the Mayor of Port of Spain Louis Lee Sing were taken on a brief tour of the school by the school's Principal.

On the second day of her visit to this country, Her Royal Highness Princess Sophie, Countess of Wessex paid a visit to the Princess Elizabeth Centre in Woodbrook, where she was welcomed by the Honourable Verna St. Rose Greaves, Minister of Gender, Youth and Child Development. Her visit to this establishment centred on the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the Royal Visit and to recognize the close links between the Centre and the Royal Family. The Princess Elizabeth Centre was built on lands gifted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and opened by the Princess Royal in 1953.

In her welcoming remarks, Minister St. Rose highlighted the importance of Princess Sophie's visit to the Centre in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. Following the unveiling of the plaque, the Countess of Wessex along with Minister St. Rose; Dr. the Honourable Fuad Khan, Minister of Health; Dr. the Honourable Glenn Ramadharsingh, Minister of the People and Social Development ; and a delegation from the British High Commission proceeded on a full tour of the Centre. On completion of the tour, the Princess was beautifully serenaded in song by a group of special children who attend classes at the Centre.

01: *His Royal Highness Prince Edward interacts with students upon his arrival at the school.* **02:** *His Royal Highness Prince Edward interacts with some students of Belmont Boys' Secondary School with Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Tim Gopeesingh.* **03.** *His Royal Highness Prince Edward meets with Shaquille Roberts, an Outstanding International Inspiration Young Sport Leader and 2016 Olympics hopeful.* **04:** *Her Royal Highness, Princess Sophie Countess of Wessex unveils the commemorative plaque. Present with her is the Minister of Gender, Youth and Child Development, Senator the Honourable Verna St. Rose Greaves*

Photo courtesy GISL

T&T CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE LEADS TRADE MISSION TO EUROPE

pictured: *His Excellency Garvin Nicholas*

The 2008 signing of the CARIFORUM – European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was the start of CARIFORUM's transition from a preferential agreement to a reciprocal trading agreement with the European Union (EU) - one of the largest trading blocs in the world and Trinidad and Tobago's third largest market (after the USA and CARICOM).

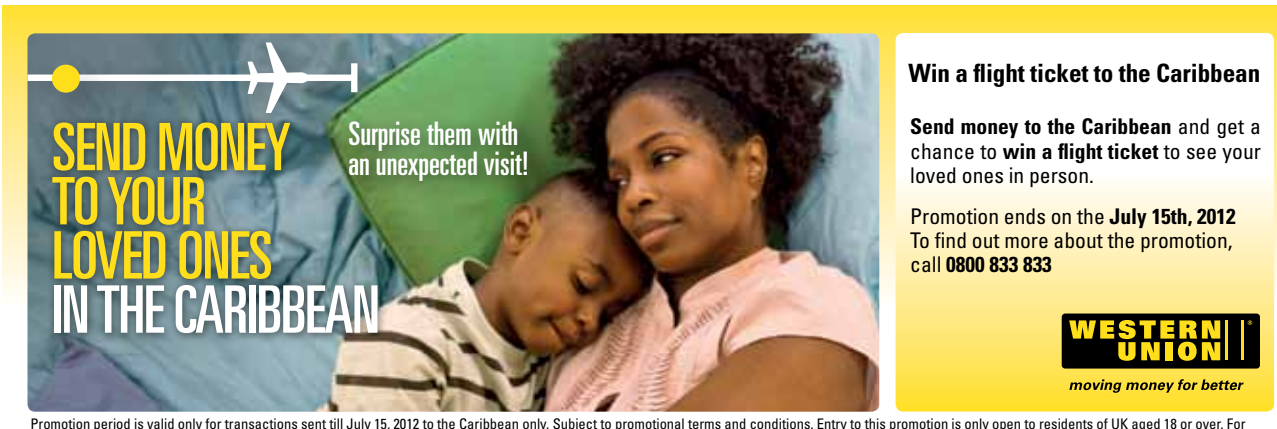
A 13-member trade mission delegation, organised by the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce participated in business meetings in Germany (Hamburg and Munich), the Netherlands (Rotterdam) and the United Kingdom (Birmingham and Manchester) from 26th February to 7 th March 2012.

The Chamber-led trade mission, "Trinidad and Tobago in Europe 2012", made possible by the Trade.Com Facility in Brussels, facilitated 30 targeted business to business meetings including a visit to the University Medical Centre (Hamburg), the Bavarian Information and Communication Technology Cluster, and the Carbon Trading Stock Exchange, in Hamburg and Munich on 27th and 28th February, 2012.

The companies on the mission included ANSA McAl, Angostura, Electrical Industries Limited, Trinidad Cement Limited, Infotech Caribbean, Trinidad Systems Limited, Neal and Massy ITC Group, Intelligent Business Advantage and PC Consultants. Notwithstanding the economic turbulence being experienced by members within the EU, several firms on both sides have already identified potential strategic partnerships which the Chamber will continue to monitor upon the return to Trinidad and Tobago.

His Excellency Mr. Garvin Nicholas, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Federal Republic of Germany; Mr. Howard Kroch, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in Hamburg; and Mr. Ingo Meyr, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in Munich have supported the mission and have attended the business programmes.

Ms. Catherine Kumar, CEO of the Chamber has had productive meetings with both German Chambers where we have held business events. As we seek to develop valuable ties with these Chambers and share in their learning experiences, we see potential for long-standing relationships to be built.


SEND MONEY TO YOUR LOVED ONES IN THE CARIBBEAN
Surprise them with an unexpected visit!
Win a flight ticket to the Caribbean
Send money to the Caribbean and get a chance to win a flight ticket to see your loved ones in person.
Promotion ends on the July 15th, 2012
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Promotion period is valid only for transactions sent till July 15, 2012 to the Caribbean only. Subject to promotional terms and conditions. Entry to this promotion is only open to residents of UK aged 18 or over. For residents of UK, no purchase is necessary. If residents of UK wish to enter the promotion please write to us on: Western Union Retail Services GB Limited, Corporate Relations Centre, PO Box 8252, London, W6 0BR. The prize cannot be encashed, exchanged or transferred. Western Union Payment Services Ireland Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Terms and conditions apply.

ONIONS 'GROWN RIGHT HERE!'

***(L-R)**: Harvesting Onions: hairman of CDA; Minister Bharath and Permanent Secretary. **Photo** courtesy Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs*

On Sunday, 3rd April, 2012 Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath, Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs along with senior officials from the Ministry and Caribbean Chemicals harvested the first onions grown for commercial use in Trinidad and Tobago at the Tucker Valley Farm in Chaguaramas.

In 2009, an estimated TT $16 million was spent on the importation of onions. Onions are a basic ingredient used in an extensive list of meals consumed daily in Trinidad and Tobago. The continued importation of onions contribute to the high food import bill, currently at an estimated TT $4 billion. In an attempt to reduce the food import bill as well as ensure food security in an increasingly unstable global trade environment, the Ministry of Food Production is seeking to substitute imported crops with local commercial production.

A pilot project was conducted in collaboration with Caribbean Chemicals on a half acre plot of land where two varieties of onion were successfully grown. The Mercedes, a yellow / golden skin variety is already being produced in other Caribbean territories. However, Trinidad and Tobago is the first Caribbean territory to evaluate the Cirrus which is the white skinned variety. The onions harvested will be sold directly to stakeholders in the food and beverage industry. The goal of this project is to produce onions locally on a large scale to supply the restaurant and other food industries, for instance schools and hospitals.

Additionally, the Ministry of Food Production has returned its Seed Production Facility to the Tucker Valley Farm location and has already begun the production of seeds for crops such as corn, bodi, ochro, melongene, sorrel and pigeon peas. These seeds will be made available for sale at affordable prices to the local farming community.

In attendance were representatives from the Diego Martin West Constituency Office and industry stakeholders including Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Chaguaramas Development Authority (CDA), Agricultural Development Bank (ADB), National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) and Trinidad and Tobago Agri-business Association (TTABA).

NEW TRAFFIC PLANS FOR PORT OF SPAIN NEXT MONTH

On April 2nd 2012, the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure advised that new traffic control measures were in place to alleviate congestion in Port of Spain and environs.

The Ministry said that the new measures were being initiated to mitigate against the many parking infractions, such as street parking and double parking, that contribute to traffic in the city. For instance parking facilities were provided for motorists because all existing parking restrictions were strictly enforced.

"In furtherance of this effort to improve the lives of citizens, on July 11th, 2012, a major Traffic Plan will also be implemented in Port of Spain and environs. This plan, the follow-up to the Experimental Traffic Scheme in Port of Spain that was launched on December 5th, 2011, is intended to continue to minimise congestion and allow the free flow of traffic within and on the outskirts of the city. Traffic Wardens will be placed at strategic locations to assist motorists in their navigation and ensure the smooth implementation of the new plan."

The Ministry of Works and Infrastructure said it welcomes feedback and suggestions on ways the traffic flows can be improved.

PRIME MINISTER PERSAD-BISSESSAR MEETS WITH OFFICIALS OF CHINA'S NATIONAL PEOPLES CONGRESS

Pictured: *The Hon. Kamla Persad- Bissessar Prime Minister met with His Excellency Wang Zhaoguo.* **Photo:** GISL

On 26th March 2012, The Hon. Prime Minister Kamla Persad- Bissessar met with His Excellency Wang Zhaoguo, and members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The Chinese Delegation paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at the Diplomatic Centre St. Anns. Accompanying the Vice Chairman was a high level delegation that included several Ministers, Mr. Wang Wanbin Deputy Secretary General of the N.P.C. Standing Committee, Mr. Hu Kangsheng Chairman of the Law Committee of the N.P.C., Mr. Luo Qingquan Vice Chairman of the Environment and Resources Conservation Committee and Mr. Lu Hao Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the N.P.C. and an entourage of other N.P.C. officials.

The Chinese Delegation is in Trinidad and Tobago on the joint invitation of The President of the Senate Mr. Timothy Hamel Smith and the Speaker of the House of Representatives the Hon. Wade Mark. The purpose of the visit is to promote mutually beneficial exchanges between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the People's Republic of China and to further strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

In their discussions the Vice Chairman repeated the Invitation to the Hon. Prime Minister on behalf of his Premier to visit the Peoples Republic of China at a mutually agreed time in the not too distant future.

This invitation had previously been extended last September when the Vice Premier Wang Qishan visited Trinidad for the 3rd China Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum.

Prime Minister Persad Bissessar reiterated her Government's commitment to establishing an Embassy in China by the end of this year.

MAKING CARICOM FIT FOR PURPOSE

What exactly did Caricom Heads of Government agree to in respect of the Caricom Secretariat when they met in Paramaribo?

Their communiqué, in its customary opaque and over-formalised style, suggests that their deliberations on a 157 page consultant's report making practical recommendations on restructuring Caricom had resulted in a number of positive outcomes.

These were that the report will be made public; Caricom's Secretary-General will recruit a facilitator to prepare for the process of change and the Bureau of Conference (presently the Heads of Government of Suriname, St Kitts and St Lucia) will work with the Secretariat 'in a parallel exercise' on improving regional governance and implementation. The objective is that when Caricom Heads meet in July they will have before them a five-year strategic plan.

The communiqué also records that Heads felt the need to express a belief that the integration movement 'has continued to make great strides ever since the signing of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas'.

Subsequent to the meeting, Caricom's present and next Chairmen - respectively the President of Suriname, Desi Bouterse and St Lucia's Prime Minister, Dr Kenny Anthony – suggested that Caribbean Heads were in agreement with the broad recommendations of the consultant's report but would seek clarification on others. St Lucia's Prime Minister noted that they had agreed without reservation that there had to be change, while President Bouterse said that though the discussions were 'fierce', there was 'the willingness to grow with each other'.

Anyone reading the report – which is now available on Caricom's website – will, however, wonder what this may mean in practice and whether the political will to reform Caricom, the institution, will be matched by a change in thinking about national implementation by those who guide policy.

Although the report pulls no punches about the need for restructuring the Caricom Secretariat and the need to make it fit for purpose, its authors are reticent when it comes to the issue of political will or the manner in which leaders relate to the institution. So much so that only on page thirty do the consultants address what has been at the heart of the institution's inability to progress regional integration:

'At the risk of stirring controversy, the positions taken by Heads over the years have regularly not been enlightened and have been a major contributory factor to Caricom's current weak position. A failure to provide consistent leadership has regularly been combined with making unrealistic and unreasonable demands on Caricom while being unwilling to provide the resources to meet such demands. In their mitigation heads have been scant guidance as to the need for strict prioritisation given and why it is so important. There has been a mistaken reluctance on the Secretariat's part to challenge specific instances when too much was being asked'.

This is a challenge unlikely to be addressed by anyone other than the strongest or most suicidal Secretary General given the Secretariat's absence of executive power. Yet its resolution remains central to whether the regional body is to have a viable future.

Having said that, the decision by heads to agree to restructure the Secretariat is welcome and overdue. As page after page of the report makes clear, whatever the reason, Caricom has become dysfunctional and change is required.

What comes across most strongly from a full reading is that as an entity, Caricom, the Secretariat, has been tasked with doing too much. The report suggests that as a consequence, when it has been unable to deliver, it has substituted form and formality for substance and delivery. It also concludes that communications between member states are outmoded and over formalised; that it lacks a structure that enables outcomes; requires stronger management and the prioritisation of what matters most; needs to abandon unfulfilled initiatives; and must have time to engage in thinking about longer term strategic issues affecting the region.

The report is often at its most interesting in what it observes in passing or in its footnotes. Thus its authors see the only beacon of regional co-operation as the Caribbean Examinations Council, are almost silent on other hemispheric relationships that the region has been entering into, and only in footnotes does it seek to address the complexities of enlargement, Cariforum and practical and organisational challenges arising from the inclusion of the Dominican Republic.

Tellingly it also makes clear, albeit indirectly, that Caricom will only ever be as good as the national civil services and bureaucracies with which it deals. With such systems still locked for the most part in the rigidity and formality of a British Civil Service model from the 1950s, this may be an impossible to resolve issue. It suggests that even a restructured, much less formal and dynamic Caricom would have still to contend with bureaucracies where no one is responsible or accountable for the dissemination of its communications or able to ensure the timely responses that will be required if Caricom is to become more dynamic.

In all of this the report takes little direct interest in the thoughts of the Caribbean people, only refers in passing to the interface with the private sector and appears not to mention civil society/NGOs at all. Surprisingly, when it lists the conditions governing whether Caricom can survive, it fails to recognise the need for popular support and the consent of electorates; seemingly regarding this later in the document as a communications and perceptual issue rather than something real and an essential concomitant of legitimacy.

Irrespective, it is to be hoped profoundly that under the careful guidance of the Secretary General the body can be restructured, made financially sound and move forwards in a manner that allows it to retain and develop a cadre of committed staff able to contribute to regional development.

What is important is that if this means a Caricom lite, that the Secretariat does not lose its regional soul and come either to reflect the organisational thinking of management consultants, or is simply made more functional to meet the requirements of external funding agencies. When Heads of Government consider at their next meeting the strategic plan for the Secretariat it should be therefore, in part, a moment for them to reflect on where the Caribbean is going rather than from where it has come.

David Jessop is the Director of the Caribbean Council and can be contacted at david.jessop@caribbean-council.org

Previous columns can be found at www.caribbean-council.org

STANDARD & POOR'S 'A-' RATING AFFIRMED ON TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

20th January, 2012 - Standard & Poor's Ratings Services has affirmed its 'A-' long-term corporate credit rating on The National Gas Co. of Trinidad & Tobago Ltd. (NGC). At the same time, we affirmed our 'A-' senior unsecured rating on the company's notes. The outlook remains stable.

Our corporate credit rating on NGC reflects our opinion that there is a very high likelihood that the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (foreign currency: A/Stable/A-1; local currency: A/Stable/A-1) would provide timely and sufficient extraordinary support to NGC in the event of financial distress.

We assess NGC's stand-alone credit profile (SACP) at 'bbb-'. In accordance with our criteria for government-related entities, our view of a very high likelihood of extraordinary government support is based on our assessment of NGC's:

• Very important role as Trinidad and Tobago's sole distributor of natural gas and a key player in the development of related industries in the country;

• Very strong link with the government, given its full and stable ownership of the company.

"NGC's dominant position in the gas transportation business in Trinidad and Tobago and its strong liquidity support the ratings," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Fabiola Ortíz. "The ratings also reflect the company's concentration in a single line of business, resulting in a satisfactory business risk profile."

We consider NGC's financial risk profile as intermediate, given the volatility in its key financial ratios from the inherent volatility of natural gas prices. The company's poor disclosure of business and financial information constrains the ratings.

NGC's core business is the transmission, sale, and distribution of natural gas in Trinidad and Tobago. The company also holds stakes in other businesses along the natural gas value chain, including a minority stake in Atlantic LNG Train 1 and 4 and a 51% interest in Phoenix Park Gas Processors Ltd. (senior secured debt rated A-/Stable).

The outlook is stable, reflecting our expectation that NGC will continue to play a significant role in its country's economy and that its relationship with the government will remain stable. It also reflects our expectation that NGC will maintain its strong liquidity position.

We believe that natural gas prices will increase marginally, translating into improved financial performance.

PANORAMA NOW ON DVD

BY PETER RAY BLOOD

It is all over but the 49th installment of the National Panorama Finals can now be as a testimonial of excellent steelband music at your leisure. The scintillating music and bands' performances at the Medium and Large Conventional Finals are captured live on DVD and CD—two and three discs sets collections, respectively.

Panorama Finals 2012—The DVD is produced by Pan Trinbago, in collaboration with Advance Dynamics, which has already demonstrated its capability to deliver a high end quality product. The DVD promises to be a collectors' item with sights, sounds, interviews and music never before experienced on digital format. It also promises to fill the void for many Trinbagonians at home and abroad and those who want a souvenir of national culture and heritage—Pan—reserved and displayed like never before. Retail price for the DVD is $300.

The DVD albums were recorded, mixed and mastered by Japanese Yoichi Watanabe and Katsunari "Kats" Imai of the University of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT) (The Academy for the Performing Arts/Music Technology), and duplicated by AD; while the CDs were duplicated by Crosby's. The CD comprises three discs featuring the 21 Medium and Large Bands finalists, and bonus tracks of Small Conventional Band and Single Pan Bands winners as they performed at the Queen's Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain, and Skinner Park, San Fernando, respectively. The CD package is being sold at $300.

Panorama 2012 was in tribute to cultural icons, Dr Pat Bishop TC HBM and Ralph Mac Donald

The original Panorama DVD and CD are available at most of the major music stores, ie Cleve's One Stop Music Shop, Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain; Crosby's Music Centre, Western Main Road, St James; Kam's Record Store, Long Circular Mall, St James; Rhyner's at Piarco International Airport; and, at Pan Trinbago Head Office, Victoria Plaza, Park Street, Port-of-Spain.

RAISING THE BAR

BY INNIS FRANCIS

The lyrics to his song have hit a nerve. "Single Forever", he sings, and the appeal appears to be wide, for women and men, young and old, in a changing society where marriage is no longer a requirement but an option.

The entertainer behind the "sleeper" hit is Kris 'KI' Persad, who has found fame at the Carnival fetes with patrons lapping up his music.

He was also a crowd favourite at the Southex-promoted semi-finals of the Chutney Soca Monarch competition at Rienzi Complex, Couva last weekend, and a shoo-in to the finals of the competition on Saturday at the Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain.

But to hear KI tell it, the lyrics to his song (which may infuriate the married) were meant as no disrespect to those who have decided to tie the knot.

The intention, he said, was not to promote infidelity, but for persons to simply to be entertained by his music.

The 25-year-old, who has kept a hectic schedule for Carnival, said the song was co-written with his father Veerendra Persad, leader of the famous band JMC 3Veni.

One of K.I.'s biggests fans is his mother, Maya Sahadeo-Persad. She said that she was sure that his song would win him renowned recognition. She believes that K.I.'s song "Single Forever" was the dawning of a new chutney soca because it was telling a story of the way in which people live their lives without being vulgar or, with an emphasis on alcohol.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO CARNIVAL 2012 RESULTS

Following is the listing of results of the Downtown Carnival Committee 2012 competition released by the Port-of-Spain City Corporation.

J'OUVERT

Bomb Competition
1st – Republic Bank Exodus Steel Orchestra
2nd – Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars Steel Orchestra
3rd – Courts Sound Specialist of Laventille

Individual Of The Year
Male
1st Lennox Joseph (The Higher you climb, the harder you fall)

Female
1st Esther Pilgrim (Sat peeping at the sek e tree panty line)
Band Of The Day
Large Band
1st Hamilton Joseph - Look into the Blue Couvigne International

Medium Band
1st Belinda Loregnard - Spirit of Carnival Eastside Plaza and Associates

Small Band
1st Marvin George 50 Years Mud, Fete and Tears

ROAD MARCH

1st - Machel Montano (Pump Your Flag) Played 233 times
2nd - Fay -Ann Lyons-Alvarez (Miss Behave) Played 96 times
3rd - Iwer George (No Pain) Played 84 times

BAND OF THE YEAR

SOCA MONARCH
Power
1. Machel Montano (Pump Yuh Flag)
2. Iwer George (No Pain)
3. Destra (Link Up)

Groovy
1. Machel Montano (Mr Fete)
2. Kerwin Du Bois (Bacchanalist)
3. Benjai (People's Champion)

BAND OF THE YEAR

Large
1st MacFarlane Carnival 2012 (Santification – In Search Of)
2nd Trini Revellers (Carnival, The Golden Years)
3rd Legacy (Flight)

Medium
1st The Word and Associates (Exodus, The Second Book of the Bible)
2nd Just Friends (Just Friends)
3rd D' Harvard Revellers (Dis Is We Ting)

Mini
1st Rhapsody In Blue (King's Devils)
2nd Simply Cultural (Minstrels in the Spanish Court)
3rd The Original Jab Jab (Vintage Mass)

Small
1st Tribal Connection Cultural Promotions (The Iroquois Nation)
2nd Rosalind Gabriel and Village Promotions (Xante Trinbago
Xante)
3rd Boss-Belmont Original Stylish Sailors (Festivals of the World)

Opposite page: (From top left) A mas player takes a break from jumping up; An entrant in the preliminary competition for the Junior King and Queen of Carnival

This page: (Clockwise from top left) Machel Montano performs for revellers; Detail from Parade of the Bands, Photography by Josh Brizan; Revellers from Yuma cross the stage., Photography from Trinidad Carnival Diary

THE COAT OF ARMS

The Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago was designed by a committee formed in 1962 to select the symbols that would be representative of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. The committee included noted artist Carlyle Chang and designer the late George Bailey.

The Coat of Arms with the accompanying motifs which represent indigenous features of Trinidad and Tobago were selected and formally agreed to be used as the Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago in 1962, in a design approved by the College of Arms.

The Birds represented on the Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago are the Scarlet Ibis, the Cocrico (native to Tobago) and the Hummingbird. The three ships represent the Trinity as well as the three ships of Columbus. The three Peaks were principal motifs of Trinidad's early British Colonial Seals and Flag-Badges. They commemorated both Columbus' decision to name Trinidad after the Blessed Trinity and the three Peaks of the Southern mountain range, called the "Three Sisters" on the horizon. The fruited Coconut Palm dates back to the great seals of British Colonial Tobago in the days when the Island was a separate administrative unit.

Our Motto: Together we aspire, Together we achieve" - speaks for itself and promotes harmony in diversity for national achievement.

Arms: Per chevron enhanced sable and gules a chevrenel enhanced argent between a chief two Hummingbirds respectant gold and in base three ships of the period of Christopher Columbus also gold the sails set proper.

Crest: Upon a Wreath argent and gules in front of a Palm Tree proper a ship's wheel gold.

Supporters: Upon a Compartment representing two Islands arising from the sea, on the dexter side a Scarlet Ibis and on the sinister side a Cocrico, both proper and with wings elevated and adorned.

The National Flag

The national flag was designed by the Independence Committee and selected to be used as the National Flag in 1962. Its colours are Red, White and Black.

Red is the colour most expressive of our country. It represents the vitality of the land and its people; it is the warmth and energy of the sun, the courage and friendliness of the people.

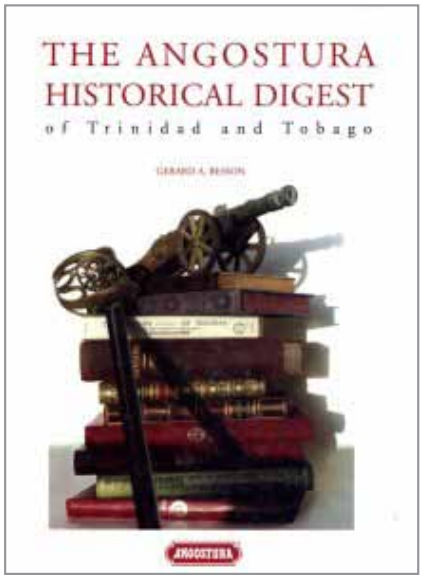
White is the sea by which these lands are bound: the cradle of our heritage; the purity of our aspirations and the equality of all men under the sun.

The **Black** represents for us the dedication of the people joined together by one strong bond. It is the colour of strength, of unity, of purpose and of the wealth of the land. The colours chosen represent the elements Earth, Water and Fire which encompass all our past, present and future and inspire us as one united, vital, free and dedicated people.

Description of the National Flag of Trinidad and Tobago:

On a Red Field, a Bend Dexter Sable bordered Silver, that is to say, there is on the Red Field a diagonal from left to right in Black bordered with White. The width of the Black and White bands joined side by side at the upper dexter corner of the Flag is on one- fifth of the full length of the Flag, and the width of each White band is one-sixth of the width of the White and Black bands together.

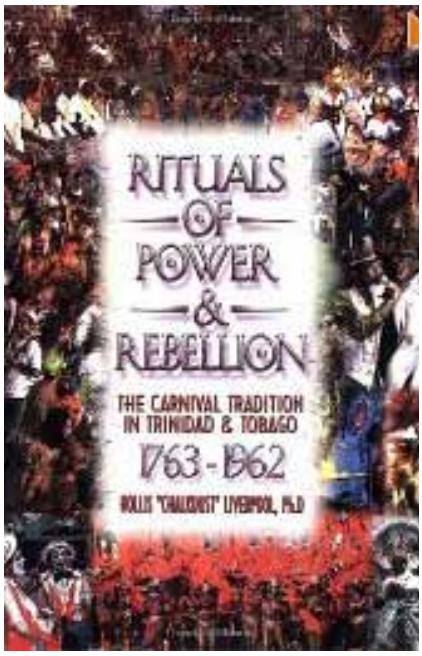
SELECTED READINGS FROM THE HIGH COMMISSION'S LIBRARY



Edited by Gerard Besson

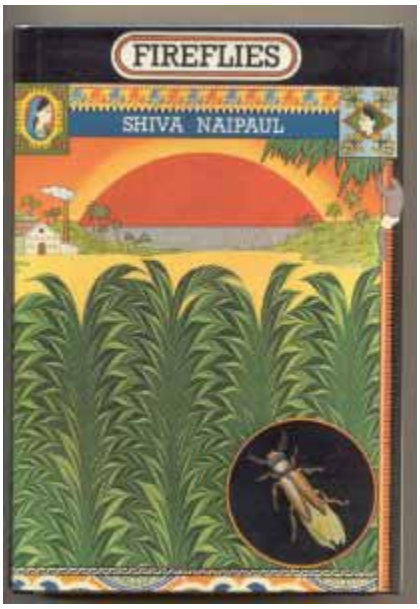
The stories of these islands have come down to us via the impressions of strangers, transients, travellers, and apologists, analysing, often for the purpose of the creation of polemic. The arranging of information long after the fact has always been the challenge of the storyteller – perhaps that's why it is called history.

This collection of essays does not pretend to be a history of our islands or of the people of our nation. It illustrates the life and the times of individuals who have contributed to Trinidad and Tobago's development over the centuries, ranging from the marvellous eccentricities of Mahalle and his invisible car and the city as he saw it, on through to civil rights pioneer Dr. Jean Baptiste Philippe and his success with a civil rights case in the House of Lords in 1829, to the colonist Roume de St. Laurent and his experiment with marooned French people in the Antilles, to politician Albert Gomes and the origins of party politics, and the work of humanitarian Johannes Mohammed Bath, to name a few. The Angostura Historical Digest endeavours to show the commonalities of our shared experiences and the extent to which we are our brother's keepers. To give context to local events, the essays also speak of what was going on in the region during those formative years in Venezuela, the other islands of the Caribbean, North America and the wider world.



By Hollis 'Chalkdust' Liverpool, PhD

"Rituals Of Power and Rebellion" by noted historian and calypsonian, Dr. Hollis "Chalkdust" Liverpool, is a masterpiece of scholarship, insight and impressive research. An in-depth study of the evolution of Carnival in the Caribbean and in Trinidad & Tobago in particular, "Rituals Of Power & Rebellion" is that history lesson, which needed to be told and which now needs to be read by all people of the African Diaspora. Dr. Liverpool uses his wonderful skills as a storyteller to keep his readers enthralled as he unravels the many layers of social, anthropological, cultural and musical history, which have contributed to the survival and evolution of Carnival. As a history of Carnival, "Rituals Of Power & Rebellion is unparalleled.



By Shiva Naipaul

The Khojas are Trinidad's most venerated Hindu family. Rigidly orthodox, presiding over acres of ill-kept sugarcane and hoards of jewellery enthusiastically guarded by old Mrs Khoja, they seem to have triumphed more by default than by anything else. Only 'Baby' Khoja, who is parcelled off into an arranged marriage with a blustering bus driver, proves an exception to this rule. Her heroic story - of resourcefulness, strength and survival - is the gleaming thread in Shiva Naipaul's ferociously comic and profoundly sad first novel.

T&T, Belize and Puerto Rico in literary race

Writers earn shortlist places for this year's OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature

From a longlist of ten impressive titles, this year's Bocas Prize judges have whittled down to a shortlist of three books, by a prolific Commonwealth Writers' Prize-winning storyteller, a professor of Caribbean Literature and creative writing, and a political analyst and lawyer who served as the Attorney General of Belize.

The shortlist announcement was made yesterday with these three books, already winners in their own categories, going on to vie for the overall 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature of US$10,000, sponsored by One Caribbean Media, the largest media house in Trinidad and Tobago and owner of TV6, Express and Hott 93.

Trinidadian, novelist, playwright and short-story writer Earl Lovelace is this year's fiction category winner, for his sixth novel, *Is Just A Movie*. Hailed as "intensely poetic and lyrical", the judges go on to describe the work as "a tapestry of island history… steeped in place and full of beautifully realised characters."

Winning the poetry category is Puerto Rican writer and professor Loretta Collins Klobah's book, *The Twelve-Foot Neon Woman*. Judges praised the collection as displaying a "hard-earned maturity of poetic spirit", adding that the title poem marks "a tour de force of the historical and cultural imagination".

Belizean politician, columnist and attorney Godfrey P Smith is the winner in the non-fiction category for his biography of Belize's first prime minister, *George Price: A Life Revealed*. A "well-crafted narrative that mixes affection and gratitude with something like awe," the judges remarked, defining the publication as a deft exploration of George Price's "eccentric genius and political acumen."

It is from these three titles that an overall Prize winner was declared on April 28, 2012, as part of the second annual NGC Bocas Lit Fest (April 26 to 29) in Port of Spain. Last year's Prize was won by Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, for his most recent poetry collection, *White Egrets*.

Speaking about the OCM Bocas Prize, founder and festival director, Marina Salandy-Brown, said, "Again this year we have previously unpublished authors lining up with acknowledged literary stars for the Prize. Godfrey P Smith is a newcomer and Loretta Collins Klobah's collection of poetry is her first. The Prize is bringing great writing by new and established writers to the attention of a wider audience, which is what we set out to do."

The OCM Bocas Prize, now in its second year, is open to books that were published in the previous calendar year by writers of Caribbean birth or citizenship. The 2012 panel of judges boasts a gathering of eminent authors and academics based both in the Caribbean and abroad and is chaired by the Barbadian writer, George Lamming.

The four-day 2012 NGC Bocas Lit Fest is principally sponsored by The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago with supporting sponsorship from OCM and KFC. Other sponsors include the Commonwealth Foundation, First Citizens, Courts and Flow.

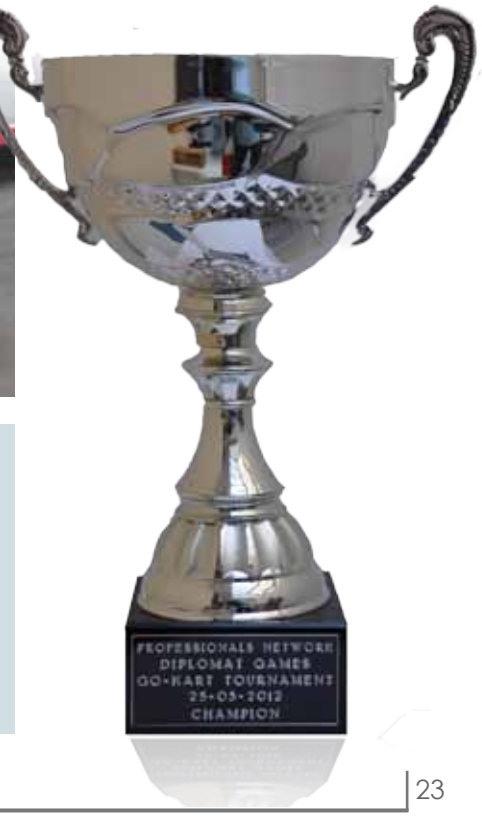
The 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature shortlist: Poetry, *The Twelve-Foot Neon Woman*, by Loretta Collins Klobah (Puerto Rico); Fiction *Is Just A Movie,* by Earl Lovelace (Trinidad and Tobago); Non-fiction *George Price: A Life Revealed*, by Godfrey P Smith (Belize).

Tourism Development Company Limited
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

T&T High Commission Secures Go-Kart Win!

On the 25th March, a team from the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission for London took part in the 2nd annual Diplomat Games sports tournament. Our three man team of Marlon Choo Ying, Michael Graham and Simon De Guglielmo took part in the Go-Kart challenge finishing on top, beating teams from Germany, USA, and Jamaica in the process.

The competition took place at The Raceway in Charlton, whose tracks have seen the racing talents of F1 greats Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button. Congratulations to team Trinidad and Tobago!



Clockwise from top left The winning team (from left to right) Michael Graham, Marlon Choo Ying and Simon De Guglielmo; Michael going around the track; Marlon has a go in the kart; London Mission staff member Reesa helps Marlon with his helmet; The T&T Team and their supporters; the Winning Team; Simon De Guglielmo doing the victory lap on the race track.

MICHELLE BEAUTE ON IMMIGRATION LAW DURING THE NATIONALS' MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

Ms Beaute was the featured speaker at the nationals meeting held at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London on 25th January 2012.

THE NATIONALS MEETING IN FEBRUARY

On the 29th February, 2012 the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London hosted the monthly Nationals Meeting Beverley Awonaya, of the Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Division presided over the meeting which featured the following:

Sociology Study

Trinidadian lecturer and a PhD student at The University of Kent in the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research department Barbara Adewumi is conducting a piece of original research on Black Professional families and their aspirations, with a focus on their children.

Ms. Adewumi is asking for help in filing out her research information sheet. If you fit the criteria of Black African or Afro Caribbean professional living in the South East region with children between the ages of 5 to 18, please contact her via the department's email address: sspssr-pg-admin@kent.ac.uk

Presentation by Alana Graham

Ms. Graham set up her own Chambers in the West Midlands and now practices from 9 Stone Buildings. Her areas of practice are: drafting and advising on Wills, Trusts, Tax, company and contractual matters.

Ms. Graham is one of the few barristers who has taken advantage of the direct public access scheme which allows her to see and advise

clients without the need of them first having to instruct a solicitor.

I Am Caribbean

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission hosted an exhibition of Caribbean Fashion and style in celebration of the region's unique aesthetic. The works of several Trinidadian and Tobagonian designers were featured in the installation which included photography from Laura Ferreira and Mark Gellineau of pieces from Delia Alleyne, Handra Maharaj, Ted Arthur, Laura Michelle Gomes and the Wadada Movement clothing line. There were also costumes on display from the Carnival band K2K Alliance's presentation for Carnival 2012 *The Water Seas of Consciousness*

Clockwise from top right: A national admires the work on display; TTHC Staff Beverley Awonayo and Sister Monica Tywang; Costume from the band K2K Alliance

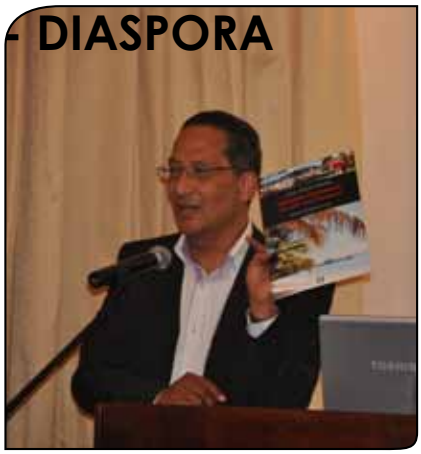
THE NATIONALS MEETING FOR MARCH - DIASPORA BUSINESS WEEK

In recognition of Diaspora Business Week, the first of which took place from the 26th to the 31st of March, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission hosted a presentation that sought to demonstrate to the Trinidad and Tobago expatriate community how to attract investment from the UK Caribbean Diaspora. The presentation was hosted by the Caribbean Enterprise Network (CEN UK).

CEN UK was established in 2009 by a group Caribbean Britons with a view towards helping the Caribbean community in the United Kingdom to make the most of their financial potential. The organisation is committed to encouraging entrepreneurial ventures and supporting Caribbean business at all stages of their development from start-ups to more established ventures.

There were a number of speakers including Senior Business Consultant Ansel Wong, Diane Edwards, Denis St. Bernard and Lorna Stewart, the Founder and Director of Black 100+ Enterprise Training and Development. The main topic of the night was the discussion on the finance-raising opportunities available to Small and Medium sized enterprises that list on the Junior Stock Exchange in Jamaica.

For details, interested persons are advised to contact CEN UK via their website: http://www.cenuk.net/contact-us



Ansel Wong, Senior Business Consultant makes a presentation to nationals.

A national makes a point during the CEN UK presentation

CARIBBEAN AIRLINES APPOINTS ROBERT CORBIE AS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Mr. Corbie, an experienced airline executive and operations professional, started his career at BWIA as a customer service agent and worked in many different positions, moving up the ranks as Director of Airports and Senior Director Operations.

At Caribbean Airlines, he has served as Regional Director Sales, and more recently as Vice President, driving the airline to surpass industry standards of on-time performance. Under his tenure, the airline has added new routes, upgraded its fleet, boosted Cargo and Duty Free operations, and has been voted the "Best Caribbean Airline" by the World Travel Awards for two consecutive years.

Additionally, he has been responsible for the integration of the Air Jamaica and Caribbean Airlines brands and has successfully positioned the airline as a leader in the industry.

In November 2010, Mr. Corbie was appointed as acting CEO and continues to hold this position as he brings 28 years of industry experience to his new role as Chief Operating Officer. The Board of Directors unanimously approved the appointment on 14 March, and Caribbean Airlines Chairman, George M. Nicholas III says "Congratulations to Mr Corbie as we evolve into a globally renowned airline with exceptional team members".

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